

Best Management Practices

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION



Flathead chub

Platygobio gracilis

Common name • Flathead chub

Scientific name • *Platygobio gracilis*

State status • Endangered

Ecology

The historical range of the flathead chub includes the entire length of the Missouri River and the Mississippi River from the mouth of the Missouri southward to the Arkansas state line. In northwestern Missouri, they also occurred in small tributaries of the Missouri River. Flathead chubs inhabited a diverse range of habitats. In large rivers, they were found in continuously turbid waters with swift current and substrates composed of sand and fine gravel. In northwestern Missouri, they were also found in pools of small creeks with clear water, little current, and substrates composed of coarse gravel and bedrock. Flathead chubs are likely generalists in their dietary needs and use external taste buds to find food. Main food items are terrestrial insects that fall into the water, as well as small aquatic insects. Spawning occurs in July and August. Adult flathead chubs are typically 3.7–7.5 inches in length.

Reason for Decline

Surveys done between 1940-1960 show that flathead chubs comprised a large percentage of fish in the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. However, by the mid-1960s, their populations had begun declining rapidly. The declines coincided with the construction of large reservoirs on the Missouri River upstream of Missouri, which changed the natural flow regimen and reduced the turbidity of the water. Other decimating factors likely include non-point source pollution and degradation of riparian areas.

Specific Recommendations

As with other aquatic species, flathead chubs benefit from practices that reduce alterations to water quality, water turbidity and water regimes.

- Dams and other impoundment structures should be prohibited in flathead chub habitat.
- Project activities should not occur below water levels between July 1 and August 31.

General Recommendations

Refer to Management Recommendations for Construction Projects Affecting Missouri Streams and Rivers.

Information Contacts

For further information regarding regulations for development in rivers, streams, and wetlands, contact:

Missouri Department of Conservation
Policy Coordination Section
P.O. Box 180
2901 W. Truman Blvd
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180
Telephone: 573/751-4115

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Division of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176
Telephone: 573/526-3315

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Branch
700 Federal Building
Kansas City, MO 64106-2896
Telephone: 816/983-3990

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Water, Wetlands, and Pesticides Division
901 North 5th Street
Kansas City, KS 66101
Telephone: 913/551-7307

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services Field Office
608 E. Cherry Street, Room 200
Columbia, MO 65201
Telephone: 573/876-1911

Disclaimer

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